portion falling within the Municipal limits of Mattancheri, there is not even one inch of metalled road in all these villages (Chellanam, Kumbalanghi, Pallivirutti, and Rameswaram) put together?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

343. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Is the Government aware that considerable hardship is now being experienced by the poor people of these villages, on account of the lack of good roads, who have most of them to get to Mattancheri and British Cochin to make their living?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes; some difficulty is being experienced, especially during monsoon months.

344. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—If the answer to questions 342 and 343 be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to assign reasons why these villages which constitute the most thickly populated and greatest revenue paying group of villages in the State have not till now received the attention of the Government in the matter of means of communication?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—As the villages of Kumbalanghi and Chellanam are separated and surrounded by backwater, there is no scope for wheeled traffic, and as such metalled roads will not be of much use.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—From the answer given, am I to understand that metalled roads will be opened only in places where there is ample scope for wheeled traffic?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Metalled roads are not very necessary there. Only for wheeled traffic metalled roads are necessary.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—My further question is whether it won't be possible, if there is a road, to have wheeled traffic between Chellanam and Kumbalanghi by means of *chengadams* as they use in Travancore.

President.—The question depends upon distance.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—My point is that, if a road is constructed from the limits of the Pallivirutti road up to the southernmost end of Pallivirutti, there will be only 2 miles of road. And another road may be begun from Kumbalanghi right up to the limits of the Cochin State in Chellanam. Then, as regards the difficulty for wheeled traffic, that can be overcome by means of *Chengadams* as they do in many places in Travancore.

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